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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,993	09/23/2003	Arne Reykowski	P03,0332	1758
26574	7590	07/27/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			WIMER, MICHAEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2828	

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,993

Applicant(s)

REYKOWSKI, ARNE

Examiner

Michael C. Wimer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10, 12-15 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9, 11 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/23/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 16, the sixth line up from the bottom and in the second line up from the bottom, and on page 17, line 1, it appears that "I2a, I2b" should be --2a, 2b--. Also in the sixth line up from the bottom, it is suggested to insert --I2a, I2b-- after "currents".

On page 17, lines 17 and 18, it appears that "U23" (both occurrences) should be --U23a-- and --U23b--, respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 1/23/2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) and (3), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; and the IDS also does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of the Patent Abstracts of Japan Publication '878 listed on the form PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1,10,12-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belt et al. (6323648).

Regarding Claims 1,10,12-15 and 19, Belt et al. show in Fig. 2A, an antenna arrangement/system for a magnetic resonance apparatus and a method for coupling two antenna groups (e.g., 45a,45b and 50,51) to acquire a magnetic resonance signal, wherein each of the antenna groups comprises at least one group antenna element (e.g., 45a) and a coupler antenna part (e.g., 46 and 48), the system and method comprises the arrangement of coils and steps of positioning the respective antenna groups relative to each other in a predetermined arrangement as shown in Fig. 2A, and configuring the respective coupler antenna parts, 46,47,48,49 so that when the antenna groups are positioned in the arrangement, the respective coupler antenna parts are inductively coupled with each other and form a common boundary antenna element of the antenna groups. A skilled artisan would have found it obvious that the coils are inductively coupled by virtue of their mutual inductance and the teaching of adjusting the loops relative to each other. Additionally, the common boundary antenna element is inductively decoupled from the first group and second group antenna elements, as taught by Belt et al. with the use of circuitry 94, etc. The housing structure is shown in Fig. 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-9,11 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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6. The patent to Jones (5430378) is cited as of interest showing and teaching an NMR arrangement and decoupling circuit for the coils.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Wimer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1833. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minsun O. Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael C. Wimer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2828

MCW
7/20/2005